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# SERVICE

## USDA'S REPORT TO CONSUMERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · OFFICE OF INFORMATION · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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### NATIONAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Scheduled for February. The 1971 National Agricultural Outlook Conference will get underway on February 23 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by USDA's Economic Research Service and Extension Service, the 48th annual Conference will feature speakers from agriculture and business. Opening day session, Feb. 23, will be on national and international economic situations and farm legislation. Commodity sessions will be held on Feb. 24 and food and fiber will be in the spotlight on Feb. 25. Discussion of the rural labor situation is scheduled for Feb. 26, the final day. Family Living Programs will be held on the Environment (Feb. 23); Medical Care (Feb. 24); and Food and Fiber (Feb. 24 and Feb. 25).

### BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Proper Food Helps. Officials of the John Will Anderson Boys' Club of Gary, Indiana, recognized the importance of the character development program of the Boys' Clubs of America organization. But they also realized that some of their members needed more than constructive activities. They needed food. Some of the 1,800 members of the Gary Club simply did not have enough physical and mental energy to participate fully in the activities. Many were from families who could not afford proper diets; others, whose mothers worked, did not have anyone at home to prepare nutritious meals for them. In March 1969, the John Will Anderson Boys' Club became the first Boys' Club in the country to adopt USDA's Special Food Service Program--and has become the largest nonschool food service program operating in the Midwest. The club began serving Saturday lunches and between-meal snacks. This complemented the hot lunches many of the boys received at school. When schools closed for the summer, the club switched to serving weekday lunches. In the fall, the Saturday lunches were resumed and evening meals were added. Boys who can afford it contribute 20 cents for either lunch or supper and 5 cents for each snack. The Special Food Service Program, which is administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, compensates the club at the rate of 30 cents per meal and 10 cents per supplement or the cost of the food service, whichever is less.



## SHEARLINGS ON THE SLOPES

An Old Fabric With New Ideas. Shearlings--lamb-skins that have the fleece attached--have been used since the time of Aristotle to prevent bedsores in invalid patients. They were not practical for use on a large scale, however, because they could not be sterilized, or even laundered. Scientists at USDA's Agricultural Research Service Eastern Laboratory in Philadelphia have now developed a tanning process that makes shearlings washable. They are being used in hospitals and homes--and in the fashion world as the latest in ski and apres-ski togs. Glamorous, easy-care jackets, vests, capes, hats, and slippers are now available in department stores and specialty shops.

## SNOWTIME

Ski the National Forests. It's some of the best skiing there is. Over 200 ski areas, including more than 80 percent of the major ski areas in the West, are located entirely or partially on National Forest land. A directory of these ski areas, "Skiing" (PA 525) is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 50 cents. The booklet includes the nine rules of the Skier's Courtesy Code and illustrates both the 12 current national ski area signs and the five new international signs. Quick recognition of these signs by skiers helps avert accidents. The illustrations of the signs may be cut out of the booklet to be carried with the skier. Get your copy of "Skiing" and Ski the National Forests--safely.

## KEEP THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN

Help Stop the Spread of Plant Pests. U.S. citizens returning from winter vacations in far away places may be contaminating our environment without knowing it. This can be done by bringing in destructive plant and animal pests and diseases. The Giant African Snail, discovered in Miami over a year ago, is a prime example. A youth brought several snails home from Hawaii in his pockets. The snail eventually spread to 13 city blocks in this Florida city. USDA, through its Agricultural Research Service, enforces restrictions or prohibitions on entry of many foreign products including most fruit, plants, and meat products. Such items are potential carriers of destructive pests and will be confiscated. Travelers can save time at ports of entry by not trying to bring them in. For information before your trip, write: "Quarantines," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## JANUARY'S PLENTIFUL FOODS

To Begin With. . . .Pork and applesauce start off the New Year at the head of the Plentiful Foods List. Other foods sharing space on the January list include fresh oranges, frozen concentrated orange juice, canned orange juice, dry peas, fresh apples, apple juice, fresh grapefruit, canned grapefruit juice, onions, and potatoes. Looking ahead to February, Plentiful Foods will be oranges, grapefruit, orange juice, grapefruit juice, apples, onions, pork, broiler-fryers, and peanuts and peanut products.





## PLUMB SIMPLE

Repairs For Leaks, Drips, and Clogs. Minor plumbing repairs can be made easier with the aid of a recently revised USDA publication. Included in the 14-page booklet are tasks that homewoners can do with a few standard tools: Repairing water faucets and valves, repairing leaks in pipes and tanks, thawing frozen pipes, cleaning clogged drains. The publication gives advice on what to do in emergencies such as a burst pipe or tank, water closet overflow, rumbling noise in hot water tanks, and safeguarding a water system when a house is closed or the heat is turned off in cold weather. It also explains why pipes hammer and tanks sweat. Copies of "Simple Plumbing Repairs for the Home and Farmstead," (Farmers Bulletin No. 2202) are available for 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

## NEW SHOPPING TIP TOOL

"How to Buy" Posters. Teachers, nutritionists, retailers, and consumer specialists have been using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's series of "How to Buy" leaflets for nearly two years as a good way to teach shopping skills. Now a new tool is available to help do the job even better. A series of ten 15x20-inch posters in color, recently published by the USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service, is designed to supplement the booklets in classrooms, in consumer meetings, or at any location where shopping information may be needed. The posters give simple shopping tips for five major food groups: meat, dairy products, eggs, poultry, and fruits and vegetables. Official USDA grades are explained and the grade marks are illustrated. If mounted on heavy cardboard, the posters can be converted into an attractive table-top exhibit. The ten-poster sets can be purchased for \$1.75 a set from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

## USDA'S CONSUMER PROTECTION KEEPS PACE

A Job For The Equipment Group. A visit to most meat and poultry plants will show that the age of mechanization is at a very sophisticated level. Homemakers would envy the convenience, ease of cleaning, and attention to design of the plants' equipment. In the case of mechanization, USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service, which administers the meat and poultry inspection program, must make sure the modern machinery does not impair the wholesomeness of the products. Within C&MS is a team of experts, the Equipment Group, which reviews the design and operation of all new equipment which packers plan to install in any Federally inspected plant. The review begins with consideration of assembly drawings of the machine and a list of materials to be used in construction: Will the materials withstand normal use and the chemicals and cleaning agents used in the plant? Are the materials shatterproof, non-toxic, and non-absorbent? Are all surfaces readily accessible for cleaning, and free from recesses where food accumulation would allow bacterial growth? If the device passes these and other tests, the next step is construction and trial installation with operation under the eye of a Federal inspector. Even after final approval, the inspector remains watchful for any problems, recommending to the Equipment Group remedies in the machine's operation or design for better consumer protection.

## A GOOD DEAL ABOUT NUTRITION

It's In The Cards. Playing cards are teaching children about good nutrition. A deck of Menu Rummy cards printed with the names of foods can be used for several games by different age groups. For example, the object of one game is to draw cards bearing the names of enough foods to complete a menu for a meal. Directions for the games are provided with the deck. During and after each game, nutrition is discussed by the children and their teacher or leader. Minnesota 4-H staff members adapted Menu Rummy from a magazine article, "Games Add Fun to Learning," and with the permission of the author, published the playing cards. Decks may be purchased for \$1.00 from the Bulletin Room, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101.

## INCOME SOURCE

Decorative Plants. Holly--bittersweet--winterberry--mistletoe--these are just some of the decorative plants of the Appalachian Mountains. If you're an Appalachian woodland owner looking for added income, look to your woods! Many of the trees and shrubs of Appalachia are highly prized in the urban areas of the East for their decorative value. In fact, there's a considerable market for these plant materials, but the full market potential for them is not always realized. USDA's Forest Service has just published the booklet "Decorative Plants of Appalachia. . . A Source of Income" which summarizes information on Appalachian plants commonly sold for decorations. It tells how to recognize the plants and how they are used in the decorative trade. It describes and illustrates more than thirty major plants. Copies of AIB 342 are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for 35 cents.

## BREAD WITH MUSCLE

And Less Fat. Bread and other baked products with higher nutritional value and potentially lower cost may be in your near future. Researchers at the State Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, discovered that by using three emulsifiers already known to the baking industry, more protein concentrates may be added to wheat flour without adverse effects on eating qualities, texture, or appearance. The method also can be used with starches and flour from crops grown in tropical areas, such as corn and cassava. It's good news for weight-watchers, too. The researchers found that less shortening is required in baked goods with the emulsifiers.

## MOVING?

Send the Label. Be sure to send along the address label from SERVICE if you are moving, changing your name, or otherwise altering your mailing address. Having the label enables us to make the proper changes more quickly and accurately.

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